

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13976 030525Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13976

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, JA
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GOJ REQUEST FOR NORTHWEST AIRLINES TO
ALTER SCHEDULE TO ELIMINATE OVERNIGHTS

REF: TOKYO 13150

SUMMARY: MOFA OFFICIAL TELLS US JAPANESE ARE SERIOUS
ABOUT ENDING NWA FIFTH FREEDOM OVERNIGHT STOPS
IN TOKYO BY SEPTEMBER 30. SUGGEST WE MAKE OUR
CASE IN WRITING TO GOJ AND PROPOSE DISCUSSING TOPIC
AT OCTOBER CIVAIR TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. ECOUNS HAS HAD FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH MOFA
(WATANABE, 1ST NO. AM. DIV) ON QUESTION OF JAPANESE
INTENTIONS IN APPROVING NORTHWEST SCHEDULE WITH
SEVEN OVERNIGHT STOPS IN TOKYO ONLY UNTIL SEPT 30
AND THEN ONLY ON CONDITION THAT NEW SCHEDULE
WITHOUT THOSE STOPS BE SUBMITTED BY AUG 31. OUR
QUESTION WAS WHETHER GOJ INTENDED BY ITS CONDITIONAL
APPROVAL TO ASSURE THAT NWA FIFTH FREEDOM OVERNIGHTS
WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT OCTOBER CIVAIR TALKS, OR
WHETHER GOJ HAS MORE IN MIND. WATANABE SAID THAT
JAPANESE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT NWA OVERNIGHTS, WANT
THEM ENDED BY SEPT 30, AND MAY WARN NWA IN WRITING
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 13976 030525Z

TO THAT EFFECT ON SEPT 1 IF NWA DOES NOT FILE
A NEW SCHEDULE BY AUG 31. IF NWA TAKES NO ACTION
ON OVERNIGHTS, APPROVAL OF SCHEDULE AFTER SEPT 30
WOULD NOT BE GRANTED.

2. WATANABE PRESSED FOR SPECIFIC REACTION FROM EMBASSY,
WHICH WE DECLINED TO GIVE OTHER THAN TO MENTION CONTENT

OF OUR NOTE OF JUNE 27, 1978. JUDGING FROM WATANABE'S REMARKS, HOWEVER, WE MAY BE ABLE TO FORESTALL ACTION AGAINST NWA BY SENDING JAPANESE A NOTE OR A LETTER (RESPONDING TO THEIR LETTER CONVEYING CONDITIONAL NWA SCHEDULE APPROVAL) STATING WHY OVERNIGHTS ARE BOTH LEGAL AND OPERATIONALLY NECESSARY AND THAT SUBJECT MAY BE DISCUSSED AT OCTOBER TALKS. AS WE UNDERSTAND SITUATION, JAPANESE ARE NOT ENTITLED TO SUCH AN EXPLANATION, BUT IT MIGHT BE WISE TO OFFER IT TO AVOID WHAT COULD SEEM TO BE A PROVOCATIVE SILENCE AND TO PUT BALL BACK IN THEIR COURT.

3. NWA REP IN TOKYO HAS CITED FOR US A LIST OF TECHNICAL AND TRAFFIC REASONS FOR TOKYO OVERNIGHTS. PUTTING THESE TO GOJ WOULD GREATLY REDUCE BASIS THEY MIGHT SEE FOR ISSUING A WARNING TO NWA OR MOVING TO STOP ITS OPERATION. ADVICE AND INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED.

MANSFIELD

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